IN REPLYING, REFER TO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES
ARMY HEADQUARTERS
MANILA

January 7, 1937

MEMORANDUM
Colonel James B. Ord:

This morning I conferred with the Chief of Staff regarding First Lieutenant Jaime C. Velasquez and his lineal number in the roster. Lieut. Velasquez was born on April 4, 1907. He graduated from the United States Military Academy on June 10, 1931 a classmate of First Lieut. Rufo C. Romero of the Philippine Scouts. During his stay at West Point Lieut. Velasquez was an outstanding student. He finished No. 2 in Mathematics and graduated No. 17 of his class. I am informed that he was selected as one of the members of a team that was sent to Europe to compete in mathematics against European institutions. Because of slight lung affection contracted as a result of a fractured clavicle acquired while playing "rugby" he was not commissioned in the Philippine Scouts upon his graduation. On October 27, 1931 after a thorough examination had been made of him, he was appointed third lieutenant of the Philippine Constabulary and assigned to the Constabulary Academy at Baguio as instructor in mathematics. He was later transferred to the District of Minadanao and Sulu with station in Lanao.

I understood from you that Lieuts. R. C. Romero and Emmanuel Cepeda of the Philippine Scouts when transferred to the Philippine Army will be commissioned as Captains. I wish to invite your attention to the fact that this will be very unfair to Lieut. Velasquez inasmuch as Lieut. Romero was his classmate at West Point while Lieut. Cepeda graduated two years later. I believe it would be unfair to penalize Lieut. Velasquez for having served the Philippine Government instead of the American Army. Moreover the services that this officer has had with the Philippine Constabulary while stationed in Mindanao have given him a thorough knowledge of conditions in the Islands. For this reason I hold the opinion, which is concurred in by the Chief of Staff, that he is entitled to the rank of Captain as much as the above mentioned lieutenants of the Philippine Scouts.

Lieut. Velasquez has an excellent record in the Philippine Constabulary and is far superior in all respects to some of the lieutenants that are being considered for promotion to the rank of Captain.

The Chief of Staff agrees with me that under the above circumstances Lieut. Velasquez should be considered for promotion to the rank of Captain, and has asked me to submit his case for approval.

Basilio J. Valdés

BASILIO J. VALDÉS
Major General, P.A.
Deputy Chief of Staff